

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02 SP-02 STR-04

TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 /096 W

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P R 261854Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6946

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

UNCLAS LONDON 18271

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINT, UK

SUBJECT: QUEEN'S SPEECH DEBATE CONCLUDED

REFERENCE: LONDON 17898

SUMMARY: GOVERNMENT SURVIVED TWO CRITICAL DIVISIONS ON
AMENDMENTS TO QUEEN'S SPEECH NOVEMBER 25 WITH MAJORITY

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OF 14 ON TORY AMENDMENT AND MAJORITY OF 6 ON LIBERAL

AMENDMENT. DIFFERENCE IN TWO VOTES WAS ABSTENTION OF 8
ULSTER UNIONISTS ON TORY AMENDMENT WHO VOTED AGAINST
GOVERNMENT ON LIBERAL AMENDMENT. END SUMMARY

1. TWO DIVISIONS MARKED THE END OF PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE
ON QUEEN'S SPEECH. FIRST WAS CONSERVATIVE AMENDMENT RE-
JECTING LABOR GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICY AND DEPLORING
GOVERNMENT INADEQUACIES IN MEETING ECONOMIC CRISIS.
TORIES WERE SUPPORTED BY LIBERALS AND SCOTNATS, BUT ULSTER
UNIONIST MPS, INCLUDING FORMER CONSERVATIVE ENOCH POWELL,
ABSTAINED.

2. WHIPS OF ALL PARTIES WERE EXTREMELY ACTIVE (FOR
GOVERNMENT AND CONSERVATIVES IT WAS A 3-LINE WHIP), BUT
LABOR FELT PARTICULARLY PRESSED BECAUSE OF OSTENTATIOUS
ABSENCE OF LAOR MP RYMAN WHOSE SEAT IN BLYTH IS NOW
BEING CHALLENGED IN COURT ACTION RELATED TO CAMPAIGN EX-
PENDITURES IN OCTOBER 1974 ELECTION. LABOR MP STONEHOUSE,
WHO IS ALSO HAVING DIFFICULTIES WITH THE COURTS, IS
UNDERSTOOD TO HAVE VOTED WITH GOVERNMENT AGAINST TORY
AMENDMENT.

3. LIBERAL AMENDMENT ATTACKED GOVERNMENT ON ITS PROPOSAL
FOR EXTENSION OF NATIONAL DOCK LABOR SCHEME. ULSTER
UNIONISTS JOINED SCOTNATS AND CONSERVATIVES IN SUPPORTING
LIBERAL AMENDMENT WITH CONSEQUENT GOVERNMENT MAJORITY OF
8 VOTES.

4. FOLLOWING DIVISIONS ON THESE TWO AMENDMENTS, PARLIA-
MENT ACCEPTED QUEEN'S SPEECH WITHOUT DIVISION.

5. COMMENT: ULSTER UNIONISTS ACTION ON TORY AMENDMENT
WAS MOST INTERESTING ASPECT OF THE VOTING. IN CANDID
EXPLANATION FMR HIS VOTE AND THAT OF OTHER UNIONISTS,
POWELL LAID CONSIDERABLE BLAME ON PREVIOUS TORY
GOVERNMENT FOR PRESENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. POWELL
SAID CONSERVATIVE OPPOSITION COULD NOT ANSWER IN-
CISIVELY AND INTELLIGIBLY THE SAME QUESTIONS THEY
WERE PRESSING ON GOVERNMENT AND, THEREFORE, HE
AND OTHER
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UNIONISTS COULD NOT SUPPORT CONSERVATIVES.

6. LABOR BACKBENCHER ERIC HEFFER CRITICIZED LABOR
GOVERNMENT FOR ITS COMPLACENCY ABOUT UNEMPLOYMENT.
(HEFFER HAD PUT DOWN AMENDMENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT WHICH
PARLIAMENT DID NOT DEBATE.) OTHER BACKBENCH CRITICAL
COMMENTS ON GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC POLICY WERE MADE BY
NORMAN ATKINSON FOR LEFT-WING TRIBUNE GROUP. CHANCELLOR

HEALEY POINTED OUT GOVERNMENT ACTION TO BRING DOWN UN-
EMPLOYMENT COULD NOT BE UNDERTAKEN BEFORE 1977 BECAUSE OF
PRIORITY GOVERNMENT GIVES TO COMBATTING INFLATION.

RICHARDSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: QUEEN, SPEECHES, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON18271
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750412-0220
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975117/aaaaagcm.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LONDON 17898
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 OCT 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 OCT 2003 by chicheje>; APPROVED <28 JAN 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QUEEN'S SPEECH DEBATE CONCLUDED
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINT, UK, (ELIZABETH II)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006